

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant elects to prosecute claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 11, 13 and 14 in this continuing prosecution application. Action on the merits is requested.

The claims have been amended to further define the gripping means of the disclosed invention. As presently claimed, the force for gripping and holding a box is provided solely from the tension in the coiled spring 288. This spring-supplied tension causes fingers 210-216 to move closer together with enough force to clutch and hold a box, as shown in FIG. 10. This spring-supplied tension is overcome when the cam follower 70 moves as shown in FIG. 11 in response to the contour of the cam track. This movement of the cam follower 70 stretches the coiled spring 288, causing fingers 210-216 to move farther apart, releasing the box from the mandrel's grip.

This is substantially different than the gripping means shown in the Tisma '573 patent. In the Tisma '573 patent, cam follower rollers 128, 130 ride in cam track 124, 126, respectively. Two lever arms 132 and 134 are attached to and controlled by cam follower 128. Two lever arms 136 and 138 are attached to and controlled by cam follower 130. When the cam tracks 124, 126 move together, the cam followers 128, 130 are pulled in, which pull together the side bars 36, 38 and, therefore pull in tray halves 30, 32 to make the mandrel tray 20 more narrow. When the slot track cams move apart, the cam followers are pushed out to spread bars 36, 38 and, therefore, tray halves 30, 32.

The springs 140, 142 and 144, 146 provide a base which eliminates back lash. In contrast to the claimed invention, the tension of the coiled springs in the Tisma '573 patent does not provide the gripping force of the mandrel. That force is dictated by the position of cam tracks 124, 126 as they converge.

In re Application of Tisma
Atty Docket No. 204280-9001
Preliminary Amendment

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that pending Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 11, 13 and 14 are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

July 29, 2003



Martin L. Stern, Reg. No. 28,911
Michael K. Nutter, Reg. No. 44,979
Michael Best & Friedrich, LLC
401 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1900
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Telephone: (312) 222-0818
Facsimile: (312) 222-0818

Attorneys for Applicant

S:\CLIENT\204280\9001\0216267.4